

FACT FOR MINORS.

Fostering Alternative Care for Troubled minors

Kick off meeting, Rome, December 2-3 2016

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Fostering Alternative Care for Troubled minors

Co-financed by the European Commission – Directorate General Justice and Consumers

Responding to the call for proposals: JUST/2015/RCHI/AG/PROF

Action grants to promote and protect the rights of the child by supporting transnational projects aiming to build capacity for professionals in child protection systems and legal professionals representing children in judicial proceedings

RIGHTS, EQUALITY AND CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMME (2014-2020)

Priority 1: Target group A: Capacity-building for practitioners/professionals working with or for children in alternative care or detention



Funded by Rights
Equality and
Citizenship (REC)
programme of the
European Union



coordinamento nazionale comunità di accoglienza

The project partnership:

9 Project Partners, coming from 6 European Member States (IT, DE, PT, FI, ES, and BE):

1. CNCA, National confederation of socio-educational communities, Italy (APPLICANT);
2. Psychoanalytic Institute for Social Research (IPRS), Italy;
3. Istituto Don Calabria, Italy;
4. Juvenile Justice Ministry, Dept of Community studies, (JJD) Italy;
5. Christliches Jugenddorf Deutschland (CJD), Germany;
6. Catholic University of Porto (CUP), Portugal;
7. Finnish Youth Research Network , Finland;
8. Parc Sanitari Sant Joan de Deu (PSSJD), Spain;
9. International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO), Belgium

And Public Agencies

who signed an ad hoc letter of intent to participate and support the initiative:

- **Behörde für Arbeit, Soziales, Familie und Integration, (BASFI), Hamburg, Germany**
- **Justice Ministry, Portugal;**
- **National Ombudsman and The National Institute of Health and Welfare, Finland;**
- **Justice Ministry Catalunya, Spain**

The project proposal intends to **address children hosted by alternative care communities (or socio-educational communities) as a consequence of penal measures.**

In particular, this proposal will **focus on children with psychological, psychiatric or personality disorders.** Managing children with psychological, psychiatric or personality disorders **requires a multidisciplinary and multiagency approach; an integrated approach – both therapeutic and socio-educational.**

In many European countries, **the therapeutic care and the socio-educational care of these children are in charge to different institutions or agencies,** and there is a **lack of common procedures, tools, terminology** used to make a diagnoses **which makes it difficult to formulate judgements that can guide the actions of social workers, teachers, psychologists and psychiatrists.**

Project purpose is to **test a new holistic, multi-agency and multi-disciplinary approach with an emphasis on the effective co-operation within the treatment network of each individual child.**

Objectives of the project

- **Reinforce the capacity of alternative care communities** in five EU countries to adequately support and respond to the “special” needs of the children with **psychological, psychiatric or personality disorders**.
- **Complement the efforts of the EU in the area of the rights of the child** by boosting child protection system changes in the 5 partner countries (PC)
- **Improve efficiency of the child protection system** in 5 Partner countries so as to improve outcomes for children and **in particular children with mental health disorders in alternative care communities**
- **Ensure that children** with psychiatric/personality disorders in alternative care are **guaranteed full access to their rights, including educational, social, and therapeutic**, in a child-appropriate manner and context
- **Reinforce the capacity of professionals working for or with children in alternative care** to respond adequately to the particular needs of children with psychiatric/personality disorders
- **Strengthen interagency and multidisciplinary cooperation** in the area of the rights of children in alternative care so as to improve the system’s response capacity to some children’s special needs
- **Raise awareness** in the area of the **rights of the child, and particularly in regards to children in alternative care**, at national and EU level

Activities

- **Capacity building with professionals** working with or for children in alternative care in 5 PC and at European level through an e-learning platform
- **Identification, adaptation and testing of successful intervention methods** to address the needs of children with mental health disorders in alternative care
- Reinforcing of **multi-agency and multi-disciplinary cooperation** in the area of child protection in the 5 Partner Countries also through finalization of formal commitments
- Development of outputs aimed at **ensuring maximum impact, visibility and sustainability** of the project results and in particular of the **capacity building methodology** developed
- **Communication and dissemination** events to present project results and raise awareness on the rights of children in alternative care

Expected results

- Alternative care professionals better equipped to address the needs of children with mental health disorders
- National institutions and public bodies of the PC committed to enhancing the child protection system
- Child protection system changes boosted in the 5 PC
- Children in alternative care under penal measures and with psychiatric or personality disorders guaranteed timely and effective responses to their educational, social and therapeutic needs

Type and number of persons benefiting from the project:

- **Professionals working with children in alternative care** (i.e., social workers, justice practitioners, health workers, educators, psychologists, police): 100 *directly benefited* by the project activities in the 5 PC + 40 in other EU countries

- **Professionals as above, *indirectly benefited by the project results*** also beyond project duration: 1.000 in the 5 PC + 400 in other EU countries

- **Children in alternative care:** 500 in the 5 PC + 150 in other European countries, amongst whom, children with mental health disorders in alternative care: 120

- **National institutions and public bodies** working in the area of rights of the child and in child protection system: 50 in the 5 PC

- **National policy-makers and representatives** of the European Commission: 30

- **Academics and university students:** 300 -
The wider public: 10.000

The project methodology

- **The project methodology will entail three types of actions:**
 - a) strengthening of inter-agency cooperation;
 - b) capacity building;
 - c) communication and dissemination

Such actions will develop through **3 Work Streams** in addition to Work Stream 0

The three WS will be complementary to each other and will address the national and transnational levels at a time

Activities and outputs and responsibility wso:

- **General, financial and scientific coordination** of project activities: coordinate and monitor the project progress and the work flow in the different WS, Technical and financial reporting, Support of the project partners in organizing their respective tasks and project activities - Applicant
- **Methodology development** – All partners
- **Set up 4 Steering Group Meetings.** SGM₁ - CNCA; SGM₂ - PSSJD; SGM₃ - CUP; SGM₄ – IJJO/CNCA; produce electronic minutes: language: English, 3-5 p. each.
- **Produce a project leaflet** – CNCA, project leaflet N. 1; electronic and printed; all partners languages and English, 2p.
- **Set up Two Skype meetings** to be held between SGM₁-SGM₂ and between SGM₂-SGM₃ in order to ensure regular monitoring of national activities and particularly of the capacity building activities (WS₂) – produce a brief report of the difficulties encountered and the strategies devised to overcome them will be included in the final evaluation report- CNCA
- **Monitoring, reporting and evaluation of project activities. Project evaluation will be in charge of a scientific multi-disciplinary experts' board: 1 Psychologist/Psychoanalyst, 1 Juvenile Justice Expert, 1 Expert in the evaluation of European initiatives and the Project coordinator** - Produce an Evaluation plan N. 1; Produce an evaluation report - + Final evaluation report N. 1 - CNCA and all partners
- **Produce a final report** - Final project report - CNCA and all partners N. 1; Language: English, 20p

Work stream 1 - Multi-agency networking

Duration 18 months, led by Juvenile Justice Ministry, Dept of Community studies, Italy

Engage the public entities involved in the child protection in order to reinforce the inter-agency cooperation at national level and possibly get to the signature of formal agreements regarding the treatment of the children targeted by the project.

WS1 GAANT:

WS	Activity	Months	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
WS 1	Multi-agency networking																				
1.1	Transnational Advisory Board		█	█				█	█					█	█					█	█
1.2	Identification of key stakeholders and establishment of National Advisory Boards				█	█	█														
1.3	National Advisory Boards meetings						█			█				█			█				
1.4	Signature of inter-agency agreements															█	█				

Activities and outputs and responsibility ws1

- Establish a **Transnational Advisory Board (TAB)** composed of the institutions (public bodies) that have formally expressed their support to the project, one per each partner country (except Belgium). The TAB will devise strategies and provide guidelines for the establishment of similar boards in the respective partner countries. - 4 Meetings. Held in conjunction with the SGMs and led by the Italian partner DJCJ, 5 participants.
- Identification of key stakeholders and establish of the **National Advisory Boards (NAB)** (in each partner country except Belgium) led by the national project partner and the public body supporting the project; and composed of reps of other public bodies involved. The NAB has as a main task to identify the major institutional actors and provide essential guidelines for their correct involvement in adequately responding to the needs of children with mental health disorders in alternative care. - 4 meetings for each board in each of the 5 involved countries (IT, DE, ES, FI, PT). 5-10 participants in each partner country.
- **Signature of inter-agency agreements** - 5 Memoranda of understanding/ Signature of inter-agency agreements one in each partner country except Belgium, signed by Ministries and/or other public bodies involved in the child protection system and/or in psychiatric health care of children

Work stream 2 - Capacity building

Duration 14 months, led by Psychoanalytic Institute for Social Research (IPRS), Italy

- The capacity building (CB) activities will develop at both **national level** (in IT, DE, ES, PT and FI) and at **transnational level** (with the addition of BE).
- All the **Capacity Building activities will target professionals working for or with children in alternative care** (i.e., social workers, health workers, justice practitioners, psychologists, police officers) with a view to strengthening the professionals' capacity to respond to the challenges posed by children with psychiatric or personality disorders while in alternative care communities.
- 5 National Capacity Building processes will be launched consisting in various activities

Activities and outputs and responsibility ws2:

- The **collection of successful intervention models** carried out and the identification of potential interventions to be re-adapted and transferred to new contexts; all partners except DJCJ, CNCA and IJJO.
- The **identification of feasible settings for capacity building and testing of new intervention methods** and the assessment of the existing needs and strategies in respect to children with mental health disorders; the engagement of the professionals to be involved in the Capacity Building process - **12 Focus groups to validate the data collected**: 2 FG per country, except Italy 4 FG, and except Belgium; 15 participants per FG, 30 participants per countries - all partners except DJCJ, CNCA and IJJO
- The development of the **Capacity Building modules and intervention methods to be tested** by the way of 5 National Capacity Building processes (see next)
- Started of the **e-learning platform** developed by the IJJO that will target 40 European professionals not only from the partner countries **who will be identified primarily through IJJO extensive European network**. The e-learning training process will entail 4 modules and will last 3 months in addition to 3 months for the development of the course contents and the identification of the trainees; and 2 months for the evaluation – IJJO with CNCA and all partners
- Draft **national reports** (20 pages) – all partners except DJCJ, CNCA and IJJO

Capacity Building modules and intervention methods to be tested - by the way of 5 National Capacity Building processes consisting of:

- ✓ **National meetings – for methodology development** - 3 meetings with 20 participants in the 5 countries (all partners except Belgium), total 100 participants (same participants in all 3 meetings)
- ✓ **Capacity Building testing phase** - 3 meetings with 20 participants in the 5 countries (all partners except Belgium), total 100 participants (same participants in all 3 meetings)
- ✓ **individual follow-up of the professionals** involved during the testing phase; 20 individual follow-ups with CB participants; all partner countries except Belgium
- ✓ **Capacity Building Multi-agency meetings** - 2 meetings in each country (except Belgium) for coordination purposes; 10 participants x 2 meetings x 5 countries, total 100 participants
- ✓ **4 webinar events which will be held by 4 different partners** and will be focused each on a different topic that will be decided during the methodology development stage; - 20 participants x 5 countries, total 100 participants; in English and all national partner languages/IPRS, CUP, PSSJD with support of all partners

These national activities will also be fed by **2 transnational exchange meetings** where each partner will bring 2 experts/stakeholders:

- ✓ **Transnational Meeting 1** (in conjunction with SGM 2): reflect on the intervention models identified and their potential transferability to new contexts – 32 participants (all partners and stakeholder).
- ✓ **Transnational Meeting 2** (in conjunction with SGM 3): reflect on the progress of the national capacity building and the difficulties encountered and devise new strategies to adjust the methodology and guarantee the maximum impact of the action implemented - 32 participants (all partners and stakeholder).

Activities and outputs and responsibility ws3:

- **Development of European guidelines** (20 pages) - N. 1. Format: electronic and printed. Language: English and all partner languages; ca 20 pages. CNCA with all partners
- **Development of European Handbook for professionals** (with satirical cartoons) - N. 1. Manual for professionals and practitioners, with satirical cartoons; 40-50 pages. Format: electronic and printed. Language: English and all partner languages - CNCA with all partners
- **Development of project website** - Hosted by the Applicants' website; electronic; in English and Italian - CNCA
- **National verification of the project outputs' impact and national dissemination events** - N. 5 meetings (1 in each partner country except Belgium); 20 participants per meeting; in each national language – with national supporting bodies
- **Dissemination through social media and events** – different outputs for each country- **a detailed dissemination plan specifying dissemination strategies will be defined ongoing** and updated on the base of effective needs and resources – all partners and supporting bodies
- **Organization of Final European conference in Bruxelles** - European conference, in English, to be held in Bruxelles. 1 day, 50 participants – CNCA and IJJO

Use of EU emblem:



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programme of the
European Union

- **GUIDE FOR ACTION GRANTS 2015 / Justice Programme Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme and Pilot Projects 2015 of DG Justice and Consumers**
- **3.3. Visibility of Union Funding:**
- **Any communication or publication** by the Beneficiaries about the activities of the project, including through websites, in print, at conferences or seminars, shall indicate that the project has received funding from the European Union and **shall display the European Union emblem. In the absence of such indication the costs related to this activity shall be considered as ineligible.** A guide on "*The use of the EU emblem in the context of EU programmes*" is available at:
http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/communication/services/visual_identity/pdf/use-emblem_en.pdf
- DG Justice and Consumers **preferred option to communicate about EU funding is to write "Funded by the "name" Programme of the European Union" or "Co-funded by the "Name" Programme of the European Union" as appropriate, next to the EU emblem on the communication material.**

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a lush green field of tall grass. The blades are long and thin, with some showing signs of being cut or broken. In the upper left background, a few small yellow flowers are visible. The overall tone is bright and natural.

Thank you and have a nice working day !

Hassan Bassi - Cnca